IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1-4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a heterologous nucleotide sequence, a single retroviral long terminal repeat (LTR), a packaging signal, a rev responsive element, a polypurine tract, a eukaryotic promoter, a primer binding site, a bacterial origin of replication and a bacterial selection marker, and wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a *loxP* site.

6. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, further comprising a central polypurine tract.

7. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, further comprising a post-transcriptional regulatory element.

8. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5.

9-11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a restriction site.

13. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a 5' retroviral LTR and a 3' retroviral LTR, a heterologous nucleotide sequence, a packaging signal, a rev responsive element, a polypurine tract, a eukaryotic promoter, a primer binding site, a bacterial origin of replication and a bacterial selection marker, wherein the bacterial origin of replication and bacterial selection marker are located between the two LTRs, and wherein the U3 region of the 3' LTR comprises a *loxP* site.

14. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 13, further comprising a central polypurine tract.

15. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 13, further comprising a post-transcriptional regulatory element.

16-18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 13, wherein the U3 region of the LTR comprises a restriction site.

20. (Currently amended) A method of producing a single-LTR circular ~~retroviral form~~ plasmid, comprising:
a. introducing a shuttle vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 5 into a eukaryotic cell;
b. extracting non-integrated DNA from the eukaryotic cell;
c. transforming a bacterial cell with the DNA of step (b);
d. selecting a bacterial cell showing expression of a selection marker; and
isolating a single-LTR circular ~~retroviral~~ plasmid from the bacterial cell.

21. (Previously presented) A method of making a retroviral vector particle, comprising:
a) introducing the vector of claim 8 into a retroviral packaging cell in medium, said packaging cell comprising nucleotide sequences encoding rev, gag/pol and env proteins but lacking packaging sequences; and
b) collecting retroviral vector particles from the medium.

22. (Previously presented) A method of producing a retroviral expression vector, comprising cloning the nucleic acid of claim 5 into a non-retroviral expression vector.

23. (Previously presented) The retroviral expression vector produced by the method of claim 22.

24-29. (Canceled).